

For Immediate Release

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*Washington, D.C.*-- Today, Congressman Sires issued the following statement on the Hudson-Bergen Light Rail (HBLR).

"I am pleased with yesterday's decision by NJ Transit's Board of Directors to adopt a plan that will advance the extension of the Hudson-Bergen Light Rail (HBLR) across Route 440. This action begins the process for the extension project to be eligible for federal funding.

"Over the past few years, I have worked with NJ Transit and the New Jersey Department of Transportation to secure funding for various sections and planning of the HBLR. Since the HBLR opened in 2000, it has now expanded to 24 stations and provides 40,000 weekday trips. In our densely populated region, it is important to reduce traffic congestion by giving our commuters more transportation options. By extending light rail into new areas, economic development and urban revitalization can be realized. Additionally, light rail saves commuters money and reduces dependence on oil. The light rail has become a vital transportation option for commuters and I will continue to work on securing funds for the HBLR."

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